HAMAS OFFICIAL KILLED IN AIR STRIKE, PG 4

Movies pg 8

3-D films venture beyond gimmick

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CALGARY • WEEKEND, JANUARY 2-4, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Nicole ready for another baby
pg 14

Calgary wins men's midget hockey final

TOURNEY Hard-hitting action and high-speed hockey are what finished off the 2008 Mac's Midget World Invitational Tournament on Thursday with a win by the Calgary Buffalos in the men's division.

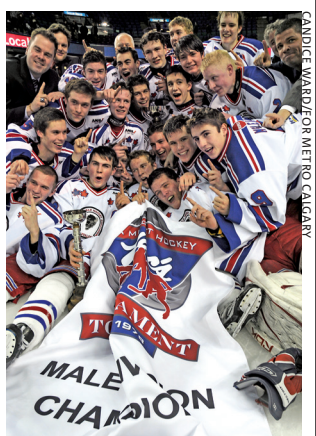
The 31st annual tournament saw final games go into double overtime in both the men's and women's division to bring the contest to an exciting close.

"It is a great crowd for the final day of the tournament, and having a Calgary team in the final probably does not hurt that," said Neil Robertson, chairman of the Mac's tournament.

This year the tournament saw fewer teams from outside of western Canada, with 25 teams in the men's division and 15 teams in the women's.

"Overall, we are very pleased with how the week went," said Robertson.

METRO CALGARY



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgary Buffalos

Canada pg 3

Search for snowboarder called off

Music pg 11

Transparency in indie rock

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CALGARY

Tracy Colby, left, and Karl Robertson rang in the new year with the birth of their second child, Connor Cruz Robertson, weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces. Connor, born at Rockyview General Hospital, is Calgary's 2009 New Year's baby.

Baby boy Connor rings in new year

City's first newborn of '09 is life of the party at Rockyview

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

Tracy Colby and Karl Robertson had an extra little reason to celebrate on New Year's Eve.

Their son Connor was born just seconds after midnight on Jan. 1 at Rockyview General Hospital, making him Calgary's first baby of 2009.

"Lots of people are partying right now and I'm pushing," Colby, 30, recalled thinking. "And soon I'd get to meet my new little boy."

In the next room, nurses were making bets as to who would be the New Year's baby and cheering the young couple on. "They were emailing Foothills Hospital, saying, 'Nope, we're going to have the New Year's baby and not you guys,'" said Colby.

> **"It was really exciting. Especially how close it was, just seconds after midnight."**
> Mom Tracy Colby

Everyone anxiously watched the clock, counting down, and at midnight, Colby gave her last push.

"It was really exciting," she said. "Especially how close it was, just seconds after midnight. That's the neat part."

However, the celebrations didn't begin immediately. Connor was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck, making him what Robertson describes as a "purpley-blue" colour.

"There was a bit of a scare, but he recovered right away and his colour came right back," said the 31-year-old Robertson. Afterward, they celebrated with apple cider and New Year's decorations, including tassels lining Connor's IV tube.

Connor is healthy and already home with his parents and 15-month-old sister Katelyn. He was due on Dec. 21 and after being 10 days late, doctors decided to induce labour, which lasted about six hours. He was born at seven pounds, 15 ounces and 52 centimetres long.

He came home to a sports-themed room, and his parents have hopes for him to become a star athlete.

Mostly though, Robertson said with tears in his eyes, looking fondly at his newborn son, he just hopes he will "live with integrity and be a good boy."

Colby and Robertson are engaged and plan to get married in August.

3 slain in shooting on New Year's Day

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

CRIME Three men are dead after a shooting at a southeast Calgary Vietnamese restaurant Thursday afternoon.

All three were eating at Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant, located at Macleod Trail and 94 Street SE, when at least two gunmen open fire, according to police. Two of the victims were found inside the restaurant and one was outside, in the parking lot.

While police have confirmed that it was a targeted attack and not a random act of violence, they won't say if the shooting was drug or gang related. Both homicide and gang units are investigating the case.

Getaway

- Witnessess said the suspects fled the scene in a silver vehicle.

"It's been a busy day. Hopefully, it's not a sign of things to come," said Calgary Police Service duty inspector Dean Lagrange of the holiday homicides.

"An officer's job is tough at the best of times, but when you come home to your families, you appreciate them a little bit more."

Police are getting help on this case from at least 10 witnesses who were eating in the restaurant. They are also asking nearby local businesses for any surveillance tapes that can help identify the shooters.

"I find this area usually to be very safe," said Melanie Hamel, who works at the Regal Beagle in the same plaza as Bolsa. "I've never felt scared or threatened at my job."

FIRST 2009 HOMICIDE PG 2

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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

Alberta axes health-care premiums
Alberta is a province without a sales tax, and as of Thursday, it is now a province without health-care premiums. By eliminating health-care premiums, the Alberta government says Albertans and businesses will save about $1 billion annually. METRO CALGARY

Local

No more smokes on campus

Cigarette-craving students who are looking to buy a pack of smokes will now have to walk off campus, and they now won't be able to buy their tobacco products at drugstores. Under the final phase of the Alberta government's Tobacco Reduction Act, all tobacco products have been shelved from drugstores and retail outlets in universities and colleges, which are no longer allowed to sell tobacco as of Thursday. METRO CALGARY

Transit fees rise for 2009

FARES Calgary Transit users now have to pay more to ride the bus and LRT.

The decision to increase fares, approved by city council, is attributed to the rise in the cost of fuel, labour and operations since the last major increase in fares two years ago.

Starting Thursday, an adult monthly pass costs $83, up from $75 last year. Adult day passes increased to $7.50 from $6.75 and youth day passes went to $5.25 from $4.50.

However, Calgary Transit still boasts to be among the most inexpensive transit systems in Canada, compared with Vancouver at $99 and Toronto at $109 for an adult monthly pass.

Calgary Transit is also increasing service hours incrementally over the next three years.

METRO CALGARY

Teen dead in icy road collision

FATALITY A 19-year-old man died Thursday in a two-vehicle collision approximately two km west of Castle Junction on Highway 1.

The driver of the other vehicle was transported to Banff Springs Hospital with undetermined injuries. Identities are not being released until their families are notified.

Icy road conditions on the highway were a contributing factor in the collision. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Atlantic Canada kicks off 2009 with a punishing blizzard at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video The brave and the foolish ring in 2009 with the polar bear dip at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Maple Leaf CEO Michael McCain's response to listeria being named business story of the year at **metronews.ca/canada**

First city homicide comes early in 2009

CANDICE WARD
for Metro Calgary

Just over an hour after the rest of Calgary rang in the new year, the police were responding to the city's first homicide of 2009.

One man is dead and two more were injured after a fight broke out around 1:30 a.m. at a pub near the Whitehorn LRT station in the northeast.

"It has not been that uncommon that we have seen (a homicide) so early in the year," said Staff Sgt. Patty McCallum of the Calgary Police Service homicide unit.

The fight initially started inside Coyote's Bar and Grill, then spilled out into the parking lot of the pub. Upon being broken up, three people with varying degrees of injury were discovered.

Two of the three injured were transported to hospital, where a man in his mid-20s died on arrival.

"It was a little bit shocking," said Lacey Farrish, 24, resident of the area.

Farrish has lived in the area her entire life and has noticed a fair amount of violence near that specific pub.

"I do quite often see cops around here," said Farrish. "This the first time I have seen anything this serious happen. It's a bit scary."

Little was known about the victim or the relationship between the parties involved at press time.

Police continue to investigate and an autopsy on the victim is scheduled for Friday.

The identity of the victim was not yet known.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgary had an auspicious start to 2009, with police investigating the city's first murder after an altercation in front of Coyote's Bar and Grill early New Year's Day.

"It has not been that uncommon that we have seen (a homicide) so early in the year."
Staff Sgt. Patty McCallum

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EMS calls down on New Year's

EMERGENCY With six additional ambulances added to their roster, Calgary EMS prepared for a busy New Year's Eve.

However, they were met with 78 fewer emergency calls than last year in a 24-hour period.

Between 6 a.m. Dec 31 to 6 a.m. Jan 1, EMS responded to 337 emergency calls, down from the 2007 total of 415. But this New Year's number is still greater than the daily average of 257 calls.

To handle the load, a night shift staff of 101 responded to 189 emergency calls in a 12-hour period. This included 40 ambulances, four single person paramedic response units, five superintendents and three patient-flow co-ordinators at hospitals.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

DOG ATTACK An eight-year-old Red Deer boy was taken to hospital with dog bites after he tried to rescue his 10-year-old sister from a dog attack — only to have the dog turn on him. The two were tobogganing when a husky dog approached and began biting the girl. The boy intervened and suffered bites to his face, arms, legs and body.

METRO CALGARY

Big acts snub 'Dome for Rexall Place

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

STADIUM Britney-less and Madonna absent, Calgary has been missing out on some major concert acts, with some opting for Edmonton only rather than double-billing it.

And the uniquely shaped Saddledome is at least partly to blame for the bypasses, according to Calgary Flames president Ken King.

"We have, from time-to-time, seen an increase of missed opportunities to house concerts at the Pengrowth Saddledome due to weight restrictions," King told Metro.

"It's not the only issue facing us, but it's increasingly happening more often," he added.

While King says he would "obviously like to house these big shows," the city wins some and loses some.

Tourism Calgary COO Aldon Wells agrees.

"It's true some concerts could have chosen both cities … but the shape of the Saddledome or Rexall probably isn't the only deciding factor," he said, adding sometimes other factors such as seating capabilities or hotel availability can also have an impact.

Wells said while Calgary may have to go without popular acts Britney Spears or Madonna, who decided to skip Alberta all together, the city has had its fair share of big acts, too.

"In 2008, we had the Juno Awards, which was huge, and in 2009 we have the Tim Hortons Brier and the world ski championships," he said.

Calgary has also rocked out to the Rolling Stones and U2.

"Calgary has a lot to offer as a city, not just a venue," Wells added.

King is hoping the Flames will get a new venue in 2014 when the building's current lease is up, something that NHL commissioner Gary Bettman publically endorsed when he was in Edmonton last week.

SUBMITTED

Major musical acts have bypassed the Saddledome, opting instead to play in Edmonton.

Students lack knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, report says
Many Canadian high school students are unaware of the causes of infertility and do not know that sexually transmitted diseases can affect their ability to have children. Ninety-four per cent of the students did not know that sexually transmitted infections, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea, can lead to infertility, according to a report in the journal Fertility and Sterility. REUTERS

Canada

Insomnia costs billions: Study

Insomnia costs Quebec about $6.5 billion a year, mostly through lost productivity among those who can't sleep, according to a new study. The figures calculated by researchers from the University of Laval in Quebec City suggest "the economic burden of untreated insomnia is much higher than that of treating insomnia," so there should be more studies of therapies. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Drugs may entice troops

Report says Afghan drug trade tempting to soliders

There's a "high probability" some Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan — one of the world's biggest sources of illegal drugs — will get involved in the drug trade, a military police report warns.

"Access to illicit drugs in Afghanistan is routine," reads the report obtained by Torstar News Service.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking," it reads.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking."
Military police report

It notes that using and trafficking drugs are illegal and "contrary to the ethos" of the Canadian Forces, but concedes some of the 2,500 troops serving in the war-torn nation might not be able to resist.

The findings are outlined in a series of military police documents obtained by Torstar News Service under Access to Information legislation. The documents, requested in November 2007, were released last month.

One report cites a July 2007 search by military police officers, aided by a drug sniffer dog, of a Canadian convoy returning from Spin Boldak, on the Pakistan border.

The report says the dog "indicated" on one of the armoured vehicles, as well as a heavy logistics vehicle that had been loaded on a flatbed trailer.

"The results of the search do not provide sufficient evidence to substantiate any charges. However, the results are indicative that (Canadian) personnel may be involved in the use and traffic of illicit substances," the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Memorial for B.C. avalanche victims Sunday

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

TRAGEDY A memorial service will be held in the small town of Sparwood, B.C., on Sunday for eight snowmobilers who died in an avalanche near Fernie.

The men were part of a group of 11 friends who were caught in four successive avalanches in Flathead Valley on Dec. 28.

Jeff Adams, one of the three men to survive the incident, said in an emotional news conference that the decision to leave his friends and head for safety haunts him.

"We had to make the gut-wrenching decision to leave … and start walking off the mountain," Adams said, explaining that he knew another avalanche was imminent.

"I replay it in my head all the time whether it was the right decision or not. The three of us talked it through and decided the best bet was to get out of the area and get help."

Seven of the bodies were recovered Monday. Adams returned with search crews on Tuesday to help find the last missing man.

"It brought a sense of closure," Adams said.

The avalanche victims are Kurt Kabel, 28, Warren Rothel, 33, Kane Rusnak, 30, Leonard Stier, 45, Michael Stier, 20, Thomas Talarico, 32, Blayne Wilson, 26, and Danny Bjarnason, 28.

WITH FILES FROM REUTERS

More avalanches

- Two men are dead after three avalanches in the past 24 hours at British Columbia's popular Whistler Blackcomb resort. The RCMP confirmed Thursday that a snowboarder from outside B.C. was killed Thursday in one of two avalanches on Whistler Mountain. On Wednesday, a Whistler man, 37, was killed in an avalanche on Blackcomb Mountain. His body was found Thursday morning. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Nova Scotia **A snowy start to the new year**

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA

A man walks through blowing snow near the Halifax Common on Thursday. A howling blizzard ushered in New Year's Day in parts of the Maritimes as snow and high winds caused power outages, disrupted highway travel and grounded flights at some of the region's airports. Most of Nova Scotia was hit with whiteout conditions all day, with the eastern part of the province and Cape Breton expected to receive the most snow — up to 60 centimetres in some areas.

Search for missing snowboarder cancelled

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

SNOWBOARDER The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain on Wednesday evening after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd just been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin, who recently moved to British Columbia from Ontario and works in Langley, was reported missing on Tuesday.

North Vancouver RCMP found his SUV in the Mount Seymour parking lot with his cellphone and wallet inside and promptly called North Shore Search And Rescue.

Police said he's lucky to be alive, and he's being treated at Vancouver General Hospital for frostbite to his hands and feet.

Martin told CBC News that if he had to have spent another day on the mountain he likely would have died.

He said he'd expected to be able to walk out of the wilderness, but each day as night fell, so did his hopes of being found.

News in brief

STRIKE Federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279, the union representing 2,300 striking Ottawa transit employees to vote on the city's last contract offer. Ottawa has been without public transit since drivers, mechanics and dispatchers walked off the job on Dec. 10.

FIRE Officers with the Ottawa police arson unit, the fire department and the fire marshal's office are investigating a fire that struck a Radisson Hotel around 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Investigators say they found evidence inside the hotel that may suggest that the fire was deliberately set. One woman is in serious condition after suffering burns to her 20 per cent of her body.

METRO CANADA

Canadian tourists shot in Mexico

CRIME A Vancouver man is in critical condition in a Mexican hospital and his friend is stable after the two were shot at a strip club and tourist hot spot.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Thursday that two Canadians were shot Tuesday in Cabo San Lucas, a resort town at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula.

A local newspaper, the Tribuna de Los Cabos, reported the victims are 26-year-old Donguyen Ninhtrung from Vancouver and Michel Brenhan Spowe, 28.

Metro was unable to confirm if Spowe is also from Vancouver.

KRISTEN THOMPSON / METRO CANADA

Extra second added to 2008 by world timekeepers

Those eager to put 2008 behind them had to hold their goodbyes for just a moment on New Year's Eve. The world's official timekeepers added a "leap second" to the last day of the year on Wednesday, to help match clocks to the Earth's slowing spin on its axis, which takes place at ever-changing rates affected by tides and other factors. REUTERS

World/Business

Air strike kills Hamas official

Israel killed a senior Hamas leader in an air attack on his home on Thursday, striking its first deadly blow against the top ranks of the Islamist group in a Gaza offensive that has claimed more than 400 Palestinian lives.

MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS

Palestinians stand Thursday at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the home of senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan in Gaza.

Nizar Rayyan, a cleric widely regarded as one of Hamas's most hardline political leaders, had called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel.

Medical officials said two of his four wives and seven of his children were also killed in the bombing in Jabalya refugee camp.

Late Thursday night, Israeli war planes bombed the camp's mosque. Officials said it was a meeting place and command post for Hamas militants. The large number of secondary explosions after the strike indicated that rockets and missiles had been stored there.

Hundreds of supporters scrambling over the concrete rubble vowed revenge as bodies, covered in blood and cement dust, were extracted.

Rayyan, 49, was a preacher at a "mosque of martyrs" who mentored suicide bombers.

Hamas Radio said he had ignored advice to leave his house as other Hamas leaders have done in anticipation of assassination attempts by Israeli forces.

REUTERS

Partygoers killed in Thai nightclub blaze

FIRE A blaze at a Bangkok nightclub killed 61 people and injured more than 200 others as people celebrating the New Year stampeded out of the club.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, with witnesses saying it was caused by fireworks and media reporting it was due to an electrical fault.

Forensic experts were unable to identify at least 30 bodies as they had no identification documents with them, doctors said, adding it would take them at least a week to do so.

Foreigners treated in hospitals included those from Japan, Australia, the Netherlands and France, police said.

Although details were sketchy, witnesses said clubbers were given sparklers shortly before midnight. Fireworks then went off inside the dance area, sparking a conflagration. REUTERS

Injuries

- Among the most critical was a 25-year-old Japanese man who suffered 40 per cent burns on his body and was in an intensive care unit.

Bombs kill at least 5 in India

ATTACK At least five people were killed and 26 wounded when suspected separatist militants set off three bombs in India's northeastern Assam state Thursday, police said.

The first bomb was found in a dustbin in a heavily populated residential area, but went off before it could be diffused.

Explosives planted on bicycles near a shopping mall and street market also exploded in the late afternoon, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police pointed a finger at the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the major separatist group in the oil- and tea-rich state often blamed for attacks. They said they had identified the suspects after receiving specific intelligence information. REUTERS

News in brief

ANNIVERSARY Cuba celebrated Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution, whose leader Fidel Castro turned the island into a communist state. The anniversary comes as the era of Castro, now 82 and in poor health, winds down and uncertainty hangs over the country's future. Celebrations have been subdued as Cuba is mired in economic problems and divided on the revolution's legacy.

MADOFF A statue stolen last month from Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff's Florida home has been returned to a country club of which the accused fraudster is a member. Accompanying the statue was a note reading "Bernie the Swindler, Lesson: Return stolen property to rightful owners. Signed by The Educator." The statue was untouched, and police say the thieves likely wanted to prove a point. The former Wall Street fund manager stands accused of running a $50-billion US scam that ensnared investors worldwide.

CRIME Danish police on Thursday charged a 27-year-old man of Palestinian origin with the attempted murder of two Israeli youths. A gunman on Wednesday fired several shots at the youths, who worked at a hair salon in the Odense shopping mall, wounding one in the leg and the other in the arm. The attack came on the fifth day of Israeli air strikes against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, prompting speculation in Danish media of a link to developments in the Middle East. REUTERS

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Business

U.S. album sales tumble in 2008

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed, according to data issued this week.

Total album sales fell 14 per cent to 428.4 million units during the 52-week period ended Dec. 28, according to retail data collected by tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

This follows a 15 per cent drop in 2007, and sets a new low since the firm began monitoring sales in 1991. Sales have plummeted 45 per cent from the industry's high-water mark of 785.1 million units in 2000, due largely to Internet piracy and competition from other forms of entertainment such as video games.

Ringtones are also a major new focus. Lil Wayne also took honors for this year's top-selling album, moving 2.9 million copies of Tha Carter III. Last year's No. 1 album was pop vocalist Josh Groban's Noel with 3.7 million copies.

Only three other albums sold more than two million copies this year: Last year, eight albums sold more than two million copies.

Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, rose 10.5 per cent to 1.5 billion units, after 14 per cent growth in 2007 and a 19 per cent jump in 2006 REUTERS

Slovakia **Joining the euro**

RADOVAN STOKLASA/REUTERS

A woman holds up Slovakia's first euro notes withdrawn from an ATM on New Year's Day. Slovakia joined the euro Wednesday, hoping that membership of the single currency will soften the blow of the global financial crisis.

TSX ends dismal year with gains

RALLY Toronto's main stock index jumped nearly two per cent on the last day of 2008, to end the worst year for Canadian stocks since the Great Depression on a positive note as oil prices staged a late-session rally.

The S&P/TSX composite index closed up 156.98 points, or 1.8 per cent, at 8,987.70 in a third-straight session of triple-digit gains. Crude is still down more than $100 a barrel from its high set in July. REUTERS

Business in brief

AUTO While it will be years before its released, Toyota Motor Corp. is secretly designing a vehicle that run completely on solar energy. A newspaper in Japan says Toyota is developing the environmentally friendly car in order to boost struggling business.

LIQUIDATION A U.S. bankruptcy judge approved a deal that will transfer $28.1 million US from a bank account of confessed swindler Bernard Madoff to the trustee liquidating Madoff's investment firm.

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Comment & Views

2008: Can we get a do-over?

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

It might just be me — never underestimate a columnist's proficiency at subjectivity — but I can't recall the last time the transition from the old year to the new felt so downbeat.

My memories aren't exactly long — I can't speak authoritatively about any New Year during the Great Depression, or the last night of 1939, when a new world war was just getting under steam, and I've got to assume that they were pretty glum affairs.

The transition from 1963 to 1964, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was still recent and raw, was probably a sombre affair, but it happened just before I was born.

I've lived through Watergate and the OPEC oil crisis, and at least two major recessions after the '70s, though, so I can claim some modest long view on history's recent dark patches.

I was a freelancer during the recession following Black Monday — Oct. 19, 1987 — and lost over half of my clients in the six subsequent months, but I know that the mood in general was far more festive when 1988 hove into view.

The consensus is pretty dire; a series of interviews with financial giants that's run in the National Post for the last few weeks has been depressing reading. "I think it's tough. I think it's going to get tougher," said Jim Treliving, CEO of Boston Pizza and Dragon's Den star.

"It sounds trite, but it's a very complex and very dangerous situation," warned banking analyst Anthony Boekh.

Asked whether he's seen a worse situation, philanthropist and Barrick Gold CEO Peter Munk was succinct: "No. But then again, I'm only 81. If I was 120, I probably would have."

It's no wonder, then, that we're acting like we're facing dust bowls and bread lines even when the worst we've seen is mostly cruel justice — housing foreclosures on people who couldn't afford their homes to begin with, and the collapse of banking institutions who played a risky game badly and lost.

As for the crisis in the auto industry, that's been brewing for years — decades, actually — and there have been Bernie Madoffs at regular intervals since the first man traded his goat for a shiny bauble.

It's half real crisis and half coincidence, and it's rather inevitable that my industry — the media we keep hearing is at an all-time low in public trust — has managed to make it all seem like a financial perfect storm about to break over your leaky trawler.

It might be true — I make no claims as an oracle — but it's just as likely that we're being told to panic because nobody wants to look like Pollyanna if the worst comes to pass.

Perhaps we should take advantage of this sombre, but fortuitous mood and begin the New Year like jilted lovers; skeptical of everyone, whether they're peddling optimism or doom, and especially skeptical of our own judgment, which got us into this mess in the first place.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Calgary needs a mayor of roads

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey
janice.paskey@gmail.com

Everyone knows that roads define Calgarians.

Dear Calgarian,

It's that time of the year when dreams abound, and it's time for a new top city official. A mayor of roads.

Elect a mayor of roads. Everyone knows that roads define Calgarians. We have a deep relationship with our pavement, and some of us are audacious enough to even like to walk along them, or use them to ride bikes.

The authority of the mayor of roads shall supersede that of mayor of Calgary and city council. The mayor of roads answers to the people.

The mayor of roads will firstly solve the snow removal dilemma.

He or she will acknowledge that Calgary is a northern city and ensure our commuter roads are cleared and safe. Hills and icy spots will gain priority.

Each city plow will have a GPS online so Calgarians can see just where those multi-plows are 24 hours a day. It's our answer to NORAD's tracking of Santa.

The mayor of roads will have a road-safety hotline. Instead of a taped call on the city's 311 line, you'll get a real human and can report road dangers.

Since traffic accidents are the No. 1 killers of young children and young adults, road safety issues will be given a 911-like priority.

The mayor of roads will lower residential speed limits.

Currently, the city abides by provincial residential speed limits of 50 kilometres per hour. A pedestrian hit by a car at 50 km/h has an 80 per cent chance of dying.

Speed creep means that 50 km/h becomes 60 km/h.

Kids stay inside, communities wither.

Together Safe Kids Canada, The Insurance Bureau of Canada and St. John's Ambulance all advocate reducing this speed to 40 kilometres, making communities safer.

The mayor of roads will triumph over the city lawyers' report calling 40 kilometres unenforceable, and listen to emergency room physicians instead.

The mayor of roads will make talking/texting while driving illegal.

The evidence is clear that humans cannot drive and text message or talk on a cellphone safely.

This time other's rights are trumped by individual communication liberty.

The mayor of roads will increase the bike path budget.

The initial $1 million for new bike paths granted by city council will be just a starting point as bike paths become a priority.

The mayor of roads will bring traffic calming parity to the masses. No more will Kensington, Scarboro, Mount Royal and Elbow Park enjoy safe streets with closures and no turns signs, while the rest of us are forced to endure speeding and cut through traffic in our communities.

It's all for one, one for all. The mayor of roads, finally, will speak for us.

Janice Paskey teaches journalism at Mount Royal College, serves on her community association board and is proud mom to two boys.

Letters

Bring back Canadian Idol or give it to someone else

I am depressed about next summer. I will watch American Idol, but I always look forward to our version.

I love anything Canadian. We need to have this show aired; it gives everyone hope that dreams can come true.

CTV got the hockey song, maybe they should give CBC the show for this year. Come on CTV, do something positive for this country. Find ways to make it more economical.

CAROLYN SAINCHUK
TORONTO

Israeli actions against Gaza citizens are inhumane

There are not enough words to describe the amount of inhumane actions that have just taken place in the past few days toward the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip.

The increasing rise of the dead has exceeded 400 and more than 2,100 civilians have been injured.

It is heartbreaking to watch the ambulance stretchers carrying injured children and finding limbs and bodies strewn all over the streets covered in dust and rubble, and blood flowing down the streets.

To make matters worse, the Israelis are bombing houses, schools, streets, and hospitals.

As Gideon Levy, an Israeli commentator put it, "Once again, Israel's violent response … exceed all proportion and cross every red line of humanness, morality, international law and wisdom."

The unjust and inhumane victimization of these people is beyond the human mind.

Where are these innocent victims going to hide in such a densely populated city? By cutting off food, water, electricity, medicine, and other basic necessities of their daily lives, is not a justified punishment. Israelis say that they are taking out Hamas, but who are the real targets?

The fate of these innocent children, women, and men is a terrifyingly gruesome death.

The Israeli media depicts it as a war when it really is a discriminatory attack on defenceless people.

EMAN KADRI,
CALGARY

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

METRO Calgary 3030 – 3 Avenue NE, Suite 120, Calgary, AB T2A 6T7, Tel: 403-444-0136; Fax: 403-539-4940; Advertising: adinfocalgary@metronews.ca; calgary_distribution@metronews.ca; News: darren.krause@metronews.ca

Tanguay out six weeks

Montreal Canadiens forward Alex Tanguay will miss six weeks with a left shoulder injury. Tanguay was injured during the first period of Tuesday's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Bolt edges Phelps

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, left, edged U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps to be voted the 2008 athlete of the year by the international media. In a poll by the International Sports Press Association, journalists from 96 nations gave Bolt a narrow edge over Phelps. Bolt won three gold medals at the Olympics, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200 and 400 relay. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Nash weighs his 2010 options

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

We're barely into 2009, granted, but the finest Canadian basketball player in history is already thinking about 2010.

In an interview with NBC, B.C. native Steve Nash confirmed what appeared in this space Nov. 24 — that he is considering the idea of joining the New York Knicks as a free agent in 2010, after his contract with the Phoenix Suns expires. He emerged with another eyebrow-raising possibility, however, by mentioning the Toronto Raptors to NBC.

While not ruling out re-signing with the Suns, Nash said: "I feel fortunate there could be other possibilities for me. New York, obviously, is my off-season home, so I love the city. It's a basketball mecca. (Ex-Suns-turned-Knicks coach) Mike D'Antoni is there so there's a lot of attractive variables. And then Toronto, to go back to Canada to play for the home team, so to speak. I feel good that one of those could really be a really strong possibility."

• Heaven knows the Raptors need help.

Despite Canadian media apologists who regularly utter nonsense about the Raptors "keeping close" to their opponents, the reality is that Canada's NBA franchise has deteriorated woefully, to the point where management is planning ticket-price reductions.

Fan interest is waning partly because many Raptors' games aren't televised by any network that allows the masses to watch them. Mind you, considering the Raps' ineptitude, that may be a positive for the club.

Oh, and then there's word spreading around the NBA like wildfire that first-year Raptor Jermaine O'Neal has become a frequent complainer about injuries that may be more imagined than real.

• Ex-NBA superstar Charles Barkley, my favourite TV sports analyst, was drinking with Jaleel White — aka Steve Urkel of the old Family Matters sitcom — at an Arizona nightclub called Dirty/Pretty shortly before he was arrested for DUI Tuesday night ... Ex-NFL star Andre Rison, who also spent some time with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, also was arrested this week on charges of public intoxication in Texas ... Look for left-hander Andy Pettitte to re-sign with the New York Yankees next week ... I'm told, incidentally, that the Blue Jays wouldn't mind signing an ex-Yank to fortify their offence. The question is whether they're willing to pay Bobby Abreu the millions he's seeking ... And soccer icon David Beckham has an interesting, new tattoo on his arm. It's in Hebrew, and it says: "My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

NHL Frozen Wrigley Field

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

The Chicago Blackhawks get set for a faceoff against the Detroit Red Wings during the NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field on Thursday. Detroit won 6-4.

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Movies&Entertainment

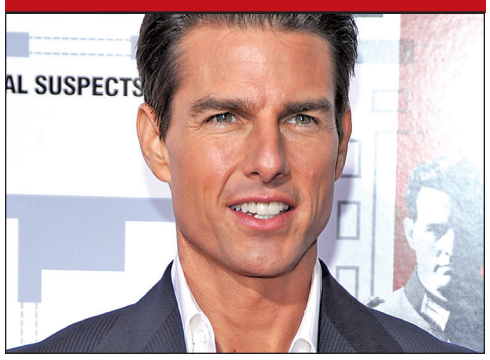
EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Year of the Third Dimension Pg 8

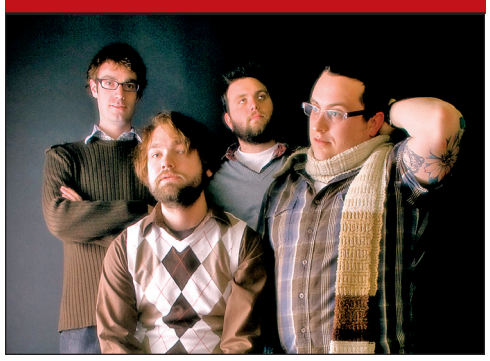
DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg, the man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek, has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D movies.

movies Pg 8



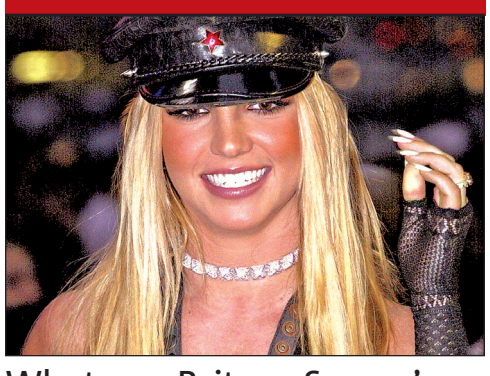
Cruise's million-dollar smile noticeably gone in Valkyrie.

music Pg 11



Indie rockers share touring, recording adventures online.

7th heaven Pg 13



What was Britney Spears' New Year's resolution?

Warner Bros. prepared to defend Watchmen in court
In a defiant statement issued Monday, Warner Bros. said it was prepared to go to trial or appeal last week's U.S. court ruling that the studio had infringed on Fox's copyright in making Watchmen, the adaptation of the Alan Moore superhero graphic novel. REUTERS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The year of 3-D films

Movie **feature**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg is in the middle of a tough road trip. The man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D.

Now, that may sound odd. After all, the fad of 3-D surfaced decades ago and since has become something of a punchline, which is exactly what's making Katzenberg's mission so challenging.

By treating journalists to a sneak peek of his groundbreaking InTru digital 3-D comedy Monsters vs. Aliens — coming in March — Katzenberg is showing off how digital advancement has breached the campy fourth wall that was once reserved for such B-movies as 1953's Robot Monster and Cat-Women of the Moon.

"It was used as a gimmick," said Katzenberg about the historical use of 3-D. "It doesn't replace a great story, so we come back to the very fundamental aspect of this, which is (that) Monsters vs. Aliens is great in its own right … but I think to be able to experience it in 3-D is something really exciting."

Katzenberg is not alone in this sentiment. While other films have been adapted for 3-D screenings, we're entering a year filled with 3-D-conceived projects, including My Bloody Valentine 3-D, Pixar's Up, Disney's A Christmas Carol and James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

For Katzenberg — whose studio already spends about $165 million per movie — the decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy. The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price. Some critics say such a gamble in a recessive economic climate is risky, but Katzenberg remains true to his latest innovation.

"Relative to any other choice you can do out of the home, movies are still just a phenomenal value. And frankly, in more challenged economic times, people appreciate it more," said Katzenberg.

"People took movies for granted and they took the movie theatre for granted, and I don't think they are right now."

Winter wasteland awaits movies

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FEATURE Watching movies in January is a lot like dating on the rebound after a bad break-up; no one expects you to take anything seriously, and after the trauma you've just experienced, you can be excused for letting your standards down just a bit.

There's one thing everyone can agree on about movies released during the first three months of the year — in spite of how much they cost to make, or how good they might actually be — these aren't films anyone really expects to be in the running for the Oscars nine months hence.

This is the season of the middling horror franchise, the low-budget remake, the featherweight comedy and the disappointing marquee projects, finally taken off the shelves and allowed to expire in the theatres with a modicum of dignity.

The sterile and purgatorial waiting room before DVD release, in other words.

A brief sampling of the titles scheduled to hit the theatres after New Year's Day will paint a picture for you: Midnight Movie, The Unborn, Race to Witch Mountain and Pink Panther 2. There are films with portentous colons in their titles: Butterfly Effect: Revelation; Clive Barker Presents: Hellraiser; Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans; and The Jonas Brothers: Burning Up.

There are not one but two 3-D titles to tempt you from your warm living rooms on snowy nights — My Bloody Valentine 3-D and Under the Sea 3-D — and a few chick flicks, such as the Renee Zellweger vehicle New In Town, along with Confessions of a Shopaholic and He's Just Not That Into You.

By the time the much-anticipated Watchmen arrives in March, the movie landscape post-Oscars will look as barren as the Somme after a barrage, and Zack Snyder's FX-laden comic-book epic will probably arrive like the mothership, bringing with it the first monster opening weekend of the year.

From the tip of winter's chilly blade, it seems like an eternity away.

Rhona Mitra stars in Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans.

What's to come

JANUARY:
- Butterfly Effect: Revelation
- Notorious
- Mall Cop
- My Bloody Valentine 3-D
- Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans

FEBRUARY:
- Under the Sea 3-D
- He's Just Not That Into You
- Friday the 13th
- Confessions of a Shopaholic
- The Pink Panther 2
- The International

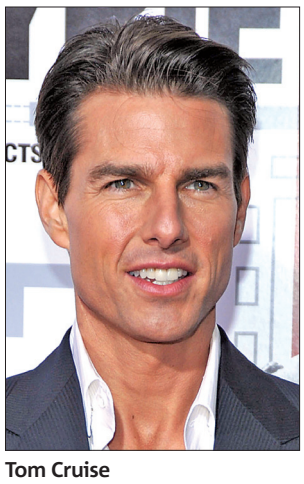
The smile that made a superstar

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Valkyrie looks like a standard-issue Tom Cruise movie with the usual explosions, intrigue and wild action. The missing key element is his megawatt smile. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg is so stern-faced he makes the expression-challenged Buster Keaton seem riotously animated by comparison.

If Helen of Troy was the face that launched a thousand ships, then Cruise has the smile that sold a million movie tickets. Wide and toothy, it stretches the full breadth of his face as a pearly-white physical manifestation of his movie-star charisma. Cruise's grin is his most distinctive feature and the focus of his public persona.


Tom Cruise

The smile debuted in a Risky Business scene where he recruits clients for his new business. There it was a charming, non-aggressive symbol of his self-assuredness. The '80s saw the lopsided grin become a pop-culture icon. It shone from the cockpit of his Top Gun F-14 and reflected off the Stoli bottles in Cocktail. In each of these films the smile is 90 per cent of the performance.

The smile's most natural performance to date is in Magnolia. As the inspirational guru of the "Seduce and Destroy" technique, Cruise handed in the best performance of his career because he understood the character's innate charisma.

The villain characters of The Last Samurai and Collateral show the smile's emotional range. The smile is still there, but now it's menacing. For example, Vincent, the hit man in Collateral, uses an ominously icy smile when he's about to hurt people.

In one form or another, the smile has been front and centre in all of Cruise's hits. Without it, Valkyrie just doesn't feel like a real Cruise blockbuster.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

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the Bay

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Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 2 TO THURS., JAN. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

TRACY BENNETT/DISNEY

Adam Sandler stars in Bedtime Stories, which is currently in theatres.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Listings not available at press time.

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:40-4:15-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:45-9:20
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:40-7:40 Mon-Thu 12-3:40-7:40
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:15-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:40 Wed 3:50-6:40-9:40 Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 7:45-10:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 1-4-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:25-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:55-10
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:45
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-6:50-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:20-6:50-10:05 Wed 4:20-6:50-10:05 Thu 1:30-4:20-6:50-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 8
Doubt (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-9:45 Mon-Tue 7-9:45 Wed-Thu 9:45
The Reader (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05
Bedtime Stories (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:10-9:35
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:50-7:05-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-1:15-4:15-5-8-9
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:55-9:40
Doubt (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:30-9:10
Four Christmases (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:05-7:35-9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12
Marley & Me (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:40-9:25
Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-7:40-10:15
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:05
The Spirit (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:25-9:50
The Tale of Despereaux (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-6:50-9:15
Twilight (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3-6:45-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-7:20-10:15
Yes Man (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:45-4:15-7-7:30-9:30-10

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Bedtime Stories (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-7-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12-4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 3:40-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon 3:40-9:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:10
Four Christmases (PG) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:15-9:55
Marley & Me (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Thu 9:20
Seven Pounds (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:45
The Spirit (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:30-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-6:30
Twilight (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-7:10-10
Yes Man (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:20-9:50

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Seven Pounds (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4
Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:40
Ghajini (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-8:30
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:55-9:55
Max Payne (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:50
Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (PG) Fri-Thu 2-8:45
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:05-10
The Secret Life of Bees (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-7-9:45

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:25-5-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 11:50-2:25-5-7:20-10:05
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 2-6:30-10:05 Mon-Wed 2-6:30-10:05 Thu 6:30-10:05 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 12-4-8 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 10:50
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 12:55-3:55-7:15-10 Thu 12:55-3:55-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:10
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Wed 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Milk (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:25-7:30-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:30-10:35
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:25-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:20-8:35 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:20-8:35
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:35-7:10-10:15
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:25
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-6:50-7:35-9:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:50-7:35-9:45-10:15

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

Bustin' Down the Door (STC) Thu 7
JCVD (14A) Fri-Sat 4:40
Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter (STC) Sun 4:30
Let the Right One In (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-7-9:15 Mon-Tue 7-9:15 Wed-Thu 9:15
Tell No One (14A) Fri-Sun 2:15
World's Best Commercials 2009 (STC) Wed 7

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:05-6:45-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:55-8 Mon-Tue 12:10-3:55-8 Wed 4:25-8 Thu 12:10-3:55-8 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-7:15-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-3:25-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:50-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:25
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:35-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:35-7:05-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:55-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 12:05-2:35-5-7:25-9:55
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:10-10
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:35-9:30
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-1:05-2:55-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:15-10:15 Mon-Tue 12:15-1:05-2:55-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:15-10:15 Wed 12:15-2:55-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:15-10:15 Thu 12:15-1:05-2:55-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:15-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:50 Mon-Thu 4:50
A Christmas Tale (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-5:15-8:15 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri-Sun 3
Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri-Thu 7
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Fri-Sun 2:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 9:20

WESTHILLS 10
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Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:05-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-3:45-7:50 Mon-Thu 5-8:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Sun 9:45 Mon-Thu 7:45
Doubt (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:15-9
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:05-9:20 Mon-Wed 5:45-8:35 Thu 5:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:10
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Sun 3:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:55
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:10-8
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:45-7:15 Mon-Thu 5:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-6:40 Mon-Wed 5:05
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:55-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:55

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Top 5 CDs according to Amazon.ca
1. Day And Age, The Killers; 2. The Priests, The Priests; 3. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 4. Funhouse, Pink; 5. Soul, Seal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

See-through lives of indie rock

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

The term "Transparent" in Amos The Transparent couldn't stick better.

The Ottawa-based indie rock outfit takes its fans beyond the music, posting videos of their adventures touring across the country and recording in-studio on their website. Hours stuck in traffic singing Celine Dion songs (ironically, of course!), fussing over stacks of ready-made grocery store pies, sound checks on short notice — the life of a travelling band can be a rough one.

"Being in a band means nothing nowadays and it's not glorious. Your grandmother could be in a band," says Amos creator and frontman Jonathan Chandler. "So we thought it would be a fun, experimental thing to do that no one's really done before."

On Celine Dion he adds, "That was our bass player (James Nicol). You can only cycle through Kings of Leon so many times."

But indie rock lovers are cycling through Amos The Transparent more and more. Their experimental arrangements on debut Everything I've Forgotten To Forget, based in folky acoustic melodies and classic rock, have gone over well with audiences at venues across the land — some including openers for Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson.

Amy Millan of the Stars — birthed in part by music collective Broken Social Scene, which Amos The Transparent has been compared with — took notice of the band after a 2006 Bluesfest show in Ottawa, which led to a album guest star spot on track After All That It's Come To This.

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter," Chandler said. "Certainly to Broken Social Scene, which I think happened because we originally started with eight people and they're such a large group too."

Chandler plans to release more for an exclusively digital EP in late January, which he says is the reason we haven't seen any recent online docs. But fans take note: they're on their way.

For a link to the band's website check out Metronews.ca/music

Amos The Transparent's frontman Jonathan Chandler say its sound is "hard to classify."

Metro recommends

- **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL:** The Cuban collective's exuberant live performance is caught on tape on only the second album featuring the original members ever released.
- **FALL OUT BOY, FOLIE À DEUX:** Chicago pop-punk outfit sheds emo handcuffs, adds a little prog rock and gets some help from Debbie Harry and Lil Wayne on its fifth studio offering.
- **FEMI KUTI, DAY BY DAY:** The son of legendary African musician Fela Kuti delivers an irresistible collection of danceable Afrobeat cuts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top-notch prospects for 2009 musical season

SoundCheck

Wondering who's going to rock your world in 2009? Some possibilities:

LAND OF TALK: Female-fronted, Montreal-based band has a chance at being a Big Deal in 2009, especially since Metric has taken so long to release their next record.

DEAD CONFEDERATE: Fuzzy, spacey band managed by the same folks who fostered a little band called "Nirvana" back in the day.

FRANZ FERDINAND: Their third record, Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, will be out on the 27th. I've heard it and I like it a lot.

FIGHT LIKE APES: Insanely raw group from Dublin that is about as far from U2 as you can get.

LUDO: St. Louis post-emo group that reminds me of a young Weezer.

SOME OTHERS: U2's No Line on the Horizon; Santogold and the Ting Tings.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Season's Greetings

We look forward to seeing our continuing students and their families in the New Year and offer a warm welcome to those of you who will be joining us in January.

We wish you all the best for 2009.

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January 5
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January 12
Registration for Kindergarten begins

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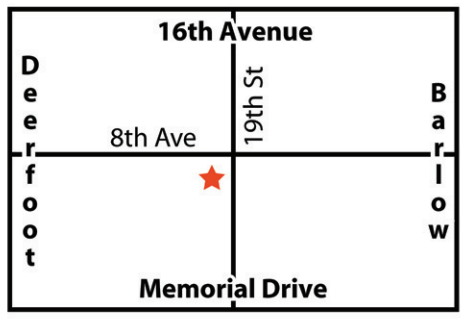

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Michael Pitt signs up for Scorsese pilot

Actor Michael Pitt is in final negotiations to join Steve Buscemi in Boardwalk Empire, Martin Scorsese's drama pilot for HBO about the 1920s origins of Atlantic City. Pitt plays a ruthless flunky, while Buscemi plays a liquor-smuggling businessman. **REUTERS**

Television

Entertainment in brief

SPINOFF Not all fans of The Hills appear ready to move to The City. The premiere of MTV's Hills spinoff, which follows Whitney Port as she relocates to New York to take on a new job, averaged 1.6 million total viewers. That's a dropoff from the Season 4 finale of The Hills, which averaged 2.6 million viewers in the time slot the previous week. (Both The Hills finale and The City premiere aired during holiday weeks.) It did benefit from its lead-in, reality series Bromance, which averaged 963,000 viewers. **REUTERS**

ARREST Actor Matt Dillon was arrested and charged with speeding after police clocked him traveling at 106 miles per hour on a Vermont highway. Dillon was pulled over at about 10 p.m. Tuesday in the town of Newbury after he was caught on police radar traveling north at high speed in a rented Chevrolet Impala, said Vermont State Police Sgt. Tara Thomas. He's scheduled to appear in court Jan. 21. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of three months in jail and a $300 fine. **REUTERS**

Viacom and Time Warner battle over channel access

DISPUTE Viacom Inc. and Time Warner Cable were at a standoff on Wednesday, but hoped to resolve a dispute that threatens to prevent more than 13 million U.S. subscribers from seeing Viacom's shows.

At issue is an extra $35 million US to $40 million US Viacom wants Time Warner to pay for carrying its cable channels, including MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon.

Time Warner has refused, saying the economic climate makes it impossible to pass along such costs to its customers. Viacom has denied Time Warner's request for an extension of the current terms.

Viacom threatened to pull its networks from Time Warner on Jan. 1 unless a deal was reached. **REUTERS**

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/2/09	243	317	3 CFCN	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		*Sticks and Stones* (2008, Docudrama) (DVS)				News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	Chinese Rest.	Metropia
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wife Swap		Supernanny		20/20 (N)
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce New Year's Eve		Just for Laughs		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	*Accidental Friendship* (2008, Drama) Chandra Wilson.				Lilith on Top		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Lipstick Jungle		Your City
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		NUMB3RS
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	Vicar of Dibley
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N)		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Dateline NBC
	-	373	22 KAYU	(6:15) **College Football** Allstate Sugar Bowl -- Alabama vs. Utah. (HDTV) (Live)						Postgame	Two-Half Men	News (N)
news	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400	21 TSN	**Junior Hockey:** World Champ.		**SportsCentre** (HDTV) (Live)			Madden Nation	**Boxing** Evander Holyfield vs. Nikolay Valuev.		
	408	418	27 net	**FSN Pro Football Preview**		Saturday Night Poker		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected		Ult. Fighter
family	552	543	20 YTV	The Mighty B!	iCarly	*H2O: The Movie* (2008, Fantasy) Cariba Heine, Claire Holt.				Falcon Beach		Dark Oracle
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	*Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen* ★★			*Smart House* ★★ (1999, Comedy)		
cable variety	-	-	18 CHTV	TV Made, Do It	Tube Tales	Greatest Myst.	Ad Persuasion	*Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict* (2008, Docudrama)				News (N)
	603	561	25 FOOD	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In
	615	520	26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Rio" (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	617	522	32 SHOW	Wife Swap		The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard (HDTV)		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams
	520	505	35 DISC	Mayday		Mayday		Mayday		Mayday		Mayday
	628	584	43 SPIKE	(6) *Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace* (1999)				MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	GameTrailers
	522	516	45 HIST	Ultimate Engineering		NCIS "Bloodbath"		Engineering an Empire		*Alexander* ★★ (2004, Historical Drama)		
	581	566	102 MTV	Bromance Lingerie party.		The City	The City	After	Girls-Latitude	A Double Shot of Love		The City

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/3/09	243	317	3 CFCN	**NFL Football:** AFC Wild-Card -- Colts at Chargers				To Be Announced		To Be Announced		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin		*Forgive and Forget* (2000, Comedy-Drama) John Simm.				Trendy Zone	Word for Word	Chinese Rest.
	-	371	5 KXLY	News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		*Sleepless in Seattle* ★★★ (1993, Romance-Comedy) Tom Hanks.				
	245	306	6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC -- After Hours	
	244	338	7 CICT	Branded: Saving Our Town		Zero Hour		Mob Stories		Go Deep "Mississippi"		News (N)
	246	-	8 CKAL	Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe		*Killer Bees* (2002, Suspense) C. Thomas Howell. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Scrubs	Cold Case		Game Show	Game Show	Cold Case "Boy Crazy"		48 Hr. Mystery
	-	374	14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	(9:05) *Broadcast News* ★★★ (1987, Romance-Comedy) William Hurt.				
	-	370	16 KHQ	**NFL Football:** AFC Wild-Card -- Colts at Chargers				News	News	CSI: NY "Jamalot"		Law/Ord SVU
	-	373	22 KAYU	Boston Legal		House "The Mistake"		Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News (N)
news	502	390	15 CBC	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Obama Goes to Africa		Sat. Report	Scene	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Goes to Africa
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400	21 TSN	**Junior Hockey:** World Champ.		**SportsCentre** (HDTV) (Live)			NFL Films	Madden Nation	NFL Primetime	SportsCenter
	408	418	27 net	**Boxing**				The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543	20 YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.	Wolverine	Transformers	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Storm Hawks
	557	541	39 FAM	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Around the World in 80 Days* ★★ (2004)		
cable variety	-	-	18 CHTV	TV Made, Do It	The Soup	To Be Announced		*Mom, Dad and Her* (2008, Drama) Melora Hardin.				Ad Persuasion
	603	561	25 FOOD	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped
	615	520	26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Breathless"		CSI: Miami
	617	522	32 SHOW	(5) *The Matrix* (1999)		About a Girl	Kink in Hair	*Loch Ness* ★★ (1996, Adventure) Ted Danson, Ian Holm.				*Spider-Man 2*
	520	505	35 DISC	Megawheel (N)		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Guinea Pig	Guinea Pig	Megawheel		Criss Angel
	628	584	43 SPIKE	(6) *Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones* (2002)				*Dragonslayer* ★★★ (1981, Fantasy) Peter MacNicol, Caitlin Clarke.				
	522	516	45 HIST	Ax Men		NCIS "Under Covers"		Cities of the Underworld		*We Were Soldiers* ★★★ (2002, War)		
	581	566	102 MTV	MTV News	Girls-Latitude	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/4/09	243	317	3 CFCN	Big Bang Th	Samantha Who	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		To Be Announced		Desperate Housewives		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Without a Trace		King	Chinese Rest.	Bollywood Boulevard		Passport to Canada		Chardi Kalaa
	-	371	5 KXLY	News	Basketball	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	245	306	6 CBRT	Heartland (N) (DVS)		*Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*				*Chronicles of Narnia*		fifth estate
	244	338	7 CICT	16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	Brothers & Sisters (N)		*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				News (N)
	246	-	8 CKAL	Murdoch	2Half Men	*Die Another Day* ★★ (2002, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry.					Less-Kind	Reviews
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)		60 Minutes		Million Dollar Password		Cold Case "Lotto Fever"		The Unit
	-	374	14 KSPS	Peace: The Polar Bear		Nature (HDTV) (DVS)		Masterpiece Classic "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" (DVS)				Mystery!
	-	370	16 KHQ	Paid Program	Dog Gone	Saturday Night Live Sports Extra (PA) (N)				Superstars of Dance (N)		
	-	373	22 KAYU	House "Deception"		Hole in the Wall		*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				News (N)
news	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		*An Inconvenient Truth* ★★★ (2006, Documentary)				CBC News: Sunday Night		*Inconvenient*
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400	21 TSN	**Hockey:** 2009 World Under 17 Challenge			**SportsCentre** (HDTV) (Live)			Motoring 2009	NFL Primetime	Rodeo: PRCA
	408	418	27 net	NHL Hockey	Sportsnet Con.	World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	552	543	20 YTV	*Roll Bounce* ★★ (2005, Comedy-Drama) Bow Wow, Chi McBride.					Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Falcon Beach
	557	541	39 FAM	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Awakenings* ★★★ (1990, Drama)		
cable variety	-	-	18 CHTV	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	Extreme Makeover: Home		*Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* ★★ (2004)				FANatical
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong
	615	520	26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Inside Out"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	617	522	32 SHOW	*Spider-Man 2*	TBA	The Guard (HDTV)		*A Daughter's Conviction* (2006, Mystery) Brooke Nevin.				*Ocean's 12*
	520	505	35 DISC	Stephen Hawking-Theory		MythBusters (N)		Anthony Bourdain		Stephen Hawking-Theory		StephenHawk
	628	584	43 SPIKE	(6) *Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith* (2005)				MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	Married... With
	522	516	45 HIST	Battle 360		NCIS "Frame-Up"		Engineering an Empire		*Elizabeth* ★★★ (1998, Historical Drama)		
	581	566	102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After	Girls-Latitude	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		Cribs

When I wish upon a TV star...

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

TRYING TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: Another year has begun, and the paucity of TV news means lots of retrospective and anticipatory themes from columnists, so why should I be any different? Alan Sepinwall of the New Jersey Star-Ledger took time to take Shonda Rhimes, Tim Kring, the writers on House, Amy Sherman-Palladino and Jeff Zucker to task for, retrospectively, this season of Grey's Anatomy, this season of Heroes, the character of Remy (Thirteen) Hadley, The Return Of Jezebel James and the decision to abandon the 10 p.m. weekday time slot to Jay Leno's new show.

Over at televisionwithoutpity.com, Angel Cohn fervently wished for more Simon on American Idol, more fun on Heroes, a less annoying Pam on The Office, some real A-list stars on Dancing With The Stars, and some personality for Anna Torv's Olivia on Fringe. Reading over her list made me wonder a) that Fringe didn't get cancelled after three episodes, and b) that TV columnists sure watch a hell of a lot of TV.

Zap2it.com's TV critic Rick Porter made nine resolutions for the industry, wishing that CBS could wean itself off of police procedurals, that Fox could come up with a good comedy that wasn't a cartoon, that HBO can make a break from "the dense, somber shows the channel has tried out in the past couple years" (I disagree, but whatever,) and that NBC can "rediscover its soul," instead of programming based on profit margins from mediocre but mysteriously profitable shows. Good luck on that one.

Porter also wishes that Battlestar Galactica, entering the last half of its farewell season, will get a bit more respect from the industry. "None of the show's fine ensemble of actors has ever sniffed an Emmy or Golden Globe nomination," Porter writes, "and it counts no series honors and only a couple of writing and directing Emmy nods."

I'd second that, especially since Galactica is a prime example of exactly the sort of show no major network or "quality cable" outlet like HBO would ever get behind, despite the fact that shows like Galactica are probably the future of TV — genre-defying, intensely addictive, and wildly influential for at least the next few years. Beyond that, the only thing I'm hoping to see in the new year is a new series of Metalocalypse and those overdue Mary Tyler Moore Show box sets.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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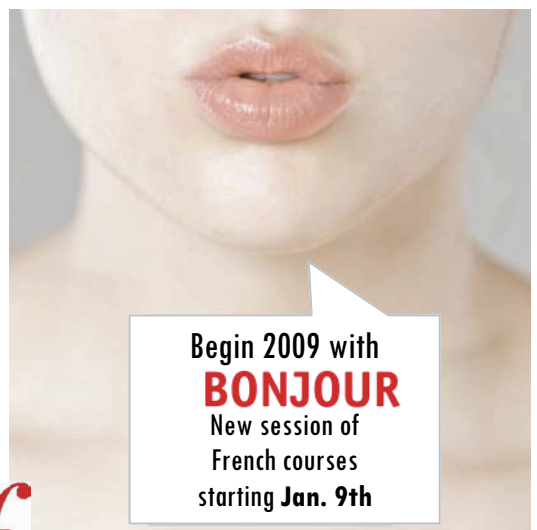

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Madonna, Dion the top concert draws of 2008
Madonna and Celine Dion were the biggest worldwide concert draws in 2008, each selling more than $200 million US worth of tickets to their slickly produced shows, trade publication Pollstar said Tuesday. REUTERS

Going Out

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

ZOOLIGHTS
When: Friday, Saturday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Calgary Zoo

If you want to check out a great holiday light display, head down to the Calgary Zoo for the last two days of ZOOLIGHTS, presented by ENMAX. Tickets for the animal light show can be found at www.calgary-zoo.com or by calling 232-9300.

Hitmen take on the Kootenay Ice
When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Where: Pengrowth Saddledome

Still need a hockey fix after World Juniors and the Mac's Midget tourney? The No. 1 ranked Calgary Hitmen host the Kootenay Ice at the Pengrowth Saddledome Saturday at 7 p.m. Ticket prices vary.

Photo exhibits
When: Until Saturday
Where: Art Gallery of Calgary

If photography is your thing, three contemporary Canadian photographers will be closing out their latest exhibits at the Art Gallery of Calgary. Still available for viewing are Portraits by George Webber, Cowboy Wild by David Campion and LOTS by Milutun Gubash.

Great tunes
When: Friday, Saturday
Where: Border Crossing, Rose and Crown, King's Head Pub, Blind Beggar Pub

Looking for great tunes? Third Gear is at Border Crossing, Copper hits the Rose and Crown, the Deegee's are at the King's Head Pub, and Frankie McQueen with Sultan Pepper will be at the Blind Beggar Pub.

Loose Moose Gorilla Theatre
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Loose Moose Theatre

Performers take turns directing improvised scenes during the Loose Moose Gorilla Theatre, which swings in this Saturday and every Saturday at the Loose Moose Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are $12 or $10 and you can get them by calling 403-265-5682.

U of C basketball
When: Friday, 6 p.m.
Where: University of Calgary's Jack Simpson gym

For great basketball, look no further than the U of C. Friday, the men's and women's teams host the U of A. Women tip off first at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at godinos.com or by calling 403-220-DINO – and students get in free with valid U of C ID.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Valkyrie
Tom Cruise's Valkyrie is doing better than expected. The Second World War thriller earned $21.5 million last weekend and $30 million since its Christmas Day release.

2 Nail resolution
Thinking of starting the new year with a promise to yourself? Britney Spears' New Year's resolution is to stop biting her nails and take better care of her hands, but she won't be too hard on herself if she fails, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Actress Joanna Page also made the same resolution this year.

3 Christmas with the folks
It seems everyone has been spending time with relatives this holiday season — even the stars. Acting brothers Matt and Kevin Dillon are famous, but they've never missed a Christmas at home with their parents and four other siblings, PageSix.com reports.

4 Entertainer of the Year
Actress Tina Fey was voted as The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year. AP members chose the 30 Rock star and Saturday Night Live Sarah Palin spoofer as the performer who had a greatest impact on culture and entertainment in 2008.

5 Intuition
Jamie Foxx finished 2009 on a high note. The album Intuition, which came out last week, debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 album chart. It was the week's top debut.

6 Buff president
Barack Obama has created quite a stir after he was photographed shirtless while vacationing in Hawaii last month. The soon-to-be president is one of the few leaders of the world with a pretty nice physique.

7 Across the border
Mexico was the place to be this New Year's. Star Jennifer Aniston ushered in 2009 with Courtney Cox Arquette and her beau, while George Clooney, Kid Rock and Cindy Crawford caught some rays, tmz.com reports.

The best and worst of celebrity gossip in 2008

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

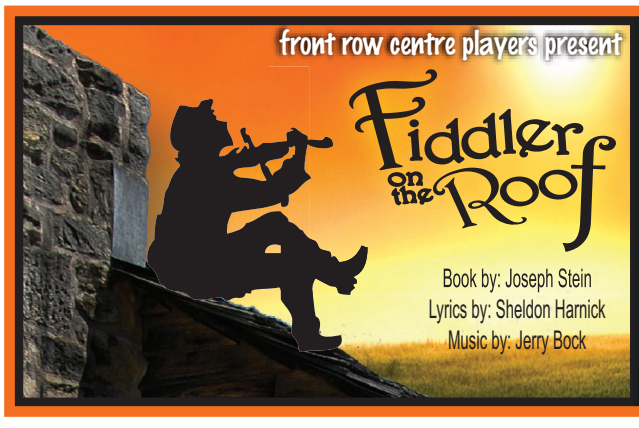
It's a sex, sleaze and crack cocaine cocktail! Join us as Metro looks back at the (literal and figurative) highs and lows of celebrity gossip in 2008.

BUMPING UGLIES Lindsay Lohan kissed a girl and she liked it. Surely the height of celebrity courtship was the unexpected romance between the post-rehab flickering starlet and English DJ Samantha Ronson. Following months of speculation, Lohan confirmed their affinity in September, to the disapproval of her famously temperamental father Michael. The love bug also bit alluring actress Scarlett Johansson and Vancouver's Ryan Reynolds, who got hitched in the city in May. And, in less monogamous meandering, Madonna celebrated 50 big ones by laying a big one on Yankee Alex Rodriguez. He maintains they're just friends. But Madge's alleged baseball fling may have precipitated her divorce from British filmmaker Guy Ritchie. The couple split after eight years in October.

REHAB REVELATIONS Ex-X-Files star David Duchovny's wife, actress Tea Leoni, tried to make him go to rehab … and he willingly obliged. His coincidental admittance for sex addiction (which bears striking similarity to his oversexed writer character on Showtime's Californication) was the first in a series of unexpected celebrity rehab visits. Eva Mendes checked into a Utah facility in February once frequented by Lindsay Lohan, and was later joined by Spider-Man's Kirsten Dunst. Melrose Place alumnus Heather Locklear wasn't far behind. She was admitted in June, but her month-long stay didn't prevent her from being charged with a DUI in September.

MINI ME'S Joining the ranks of Apple Blythe Alison Martin and Moon Unit Zappa this year were a host of celebrity babies whose parents only wish to inflict formative peer trauma on their little ones. Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban brought us daughter Sunday Rose Kidman Urban in July, while Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale's second boy, Zuma Nesta Rock Rossdale, arrived in August. The out-of-nowhere award goes to 17-year-old Jamie Lynn Spears and fiancé Casey Aldridge, who gave us Maddie Briann Aldrige in June, while the saw-it-coming award belongs to Brangelina and their twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline Jolie Pitt, who graced us in July.

GETTING BETTER For once, Britney Spears didn't do it again! In 2008, the singer regained visitation rights to her children, glowingly guest-starred on CBS' How I Met Your Mother, and won three MTV Video Music and two MTV Europe Music Awards. Her single Womanizer, from her new album Circus, reached top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 – her first No. 1 since her debut album.



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New Year's engagement

American Idol star Gina Glocksen said, "I do," to her longtime boyfriend, school teacher Joe Ruzicka, on New Year's Eve, People.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Richie hoping for baby No. 2

FAMILY It's baby time again for Nicole Richie and her rocker boyfriend, Joel Madden, starmagazine.com is reporting.

The Jan. 12 issue of the magazine reports that as their daughter Harlow gets ready to celebrate her first birthday, reformed party girl Nicole is taking vitamins, eating healthy and designing trendy maternity wear in preparation for her second pregnancy.

"Nicole simply told Joel that she wants another baby — right away," a friend confides to Star. "He was a little overwhelmed at first, but now he's with her 100 per cent. They're both thrilled about adding to their family."

And, after overcoming a rocky period in their relationship, the couple seems to be in a good place to expand their family.

Nicole and Joel went through a "rough patch, but now things are amazing between them," says a source. "Nicole knows it's because they're both so happy with Harlow, and she truly believes another baby will double their commitment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Latifah targeted in jewelry theft

PEOPLE Paris Hilton is not the only recent celebrity victim of jewelry theft — this time, thieves have gone after items belonging to Queen Latifah, msn.com reports.

The website says Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, had more than $10,000 worth of jewelry reportedly stolen from her luxury villa in Tobago, an island resort in the Caribbean, according to the local paper, Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday.

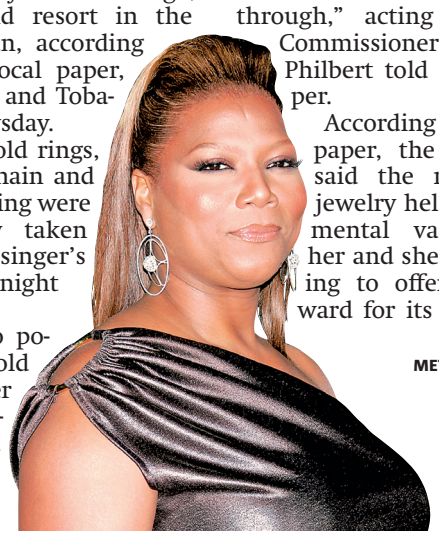
Two gold rings, a gold chain and a silver ring were allegedly taken from singer's $1,000-a-night villa.

Tobago police told the paper they believe a staff member committed the theft. Local police have also reportedly questioned several employees of Stone Haven Villas.

"Several searches are being carried out and the police are trying to have the jewelry returned to Queen Latifah. Investigators said the larceny seems to be an inside job and efforts are being made round the clock to make a breakthrough," acting Police Commissioner James Philbert told the paper.

According to the paper, the singer said the missing jewelry held sentimental value to her and she is willing to offer a reward for its return.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lewis favoured for Mariah musical role

MUSIC Mariah Carey wants Leona Lewis to play her in a musical of her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Touch My Body singer has reportedly agreed to see her story immortalized in a stage show in New York's famous Broadway district and is said to be particularly keen to have the British star take on the lead role.

A source said: "Mariah's not sure if she'll star in it herself. If she doesn't, names being tossed around include High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens and Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria. But Mariah secretly likes the idea of Leona Lewis playing her." A spokesperson confirmed to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: Mariah is in talks for a Broadway musical to be made about her life in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

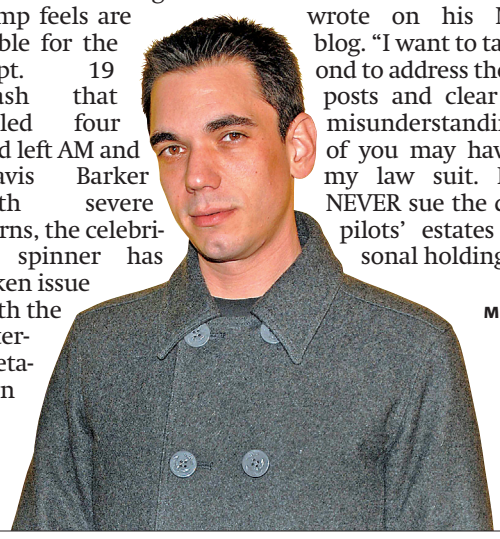
DJ AM explains lawsuit

LEGAL DJ AM wants us to know he's not taking the fatal plane crash he survived personally, people.com reports.

In response to reports about his recently filed negligence lawsuit against those his legal camp feels are liable for the Sept. 19 crash that killed four and left AM and Travis Barker with severe burns, the celebrity spinner has taken issue with the interpretation that he is suing the families of the deceased pilots.

"Normally I don't feel like I NEED to make a statement like this, but after I read some recently reported untruths I feel like I have to," AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, wrote on his MySpace blog. "I want to take a second to address the hurtful posts and clear up any misunderstandings any of you may have about my law suit. I would NEVER sue the deceased pilots' estates or personal holdings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Criss proposed to Holly: Witness

RELATIONSHIPS Holly Madison and Criss Angel may be walking down the aisle, usmagazine.com reports.

The gossip site quotes and E! report that the couple — who have been dating since Madison's October split from Hugh Hefner — were spotted at Berger & Son Fine Jewelers in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve eyeing rings.

"They were looking at one ring and Criss said, 'Would you marry me?'" a spy told E!. "Holly didn't say anything. She just looked at him." After a crowd began to form outside the store, the pair prepared to make a hasty exit, and Angel "handed the ring back to the sales guy and said, 'Thanks,'" the witness says.

A rep for Madison admits Angel picked up bling for her — but says it's not for a wedding.

"Criss bought Holly a ring for her birthday," the rep said. "It's a flower ring."

A source close to Angel tells usmagazine.com: "He asked Holly what she wanted for her birthday and she said she only wanted a flower so he got her the diamond ring that is shaped like a flower."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Williams craves Timberlake duet

PEOPLE Michelle Williams would love to record a duet with Justin Timberlake, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Destiny's Child singer admires the SexyBack star's hard working attitude and also his gorgeous body.

She said: "I like Justin Timberlake. He is not only hot, he also has an amazing work ethic. If I met him I would ask him if we could do a duet. By duet, I mean make a record together."

Although Michelle has a soft spot for Justin, she admits she would rather date a more mature man but doesn't care what they look like.

"I want a guy who is older than me — so that rules out Justin, although he is mature for his age. I wouldn't want anyone older than 34. He doesn't have to be overly cute because I don't want him hogging the mirror. He would need to be funny, loyal and have his own career."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson to sing at Obama event?

PERFORMANCE Jennifer Hudson may perform at Barack Obama's Inauguration, usmagazine.com is reporting. The performance would be her first since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were brutally murdered in Chicago last October. "Organizers want Jennifer to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at the Inauguration on January 20," a source tells the New York Post, which first reported the news. "They are talking to Jennifer about it," the source adds. "She is from Chicago and a huge Obama supporter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Need a light? Just ask Biel

PEOPLE Jessica Biel carries a cigarette lighter even though she doesn't smoke, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I'm not a smoker, but I always feel really left out when everybody goes out to smoke, so I join them and light their cigarettes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Costar praises Black's kissing

PEOPLE Cloris Leachman displays some serious PDA with Jack Black in an upcoming episode of The Office, usmagazine.com reports. "I have an intimate scene with Jack Black," Leachman told Entertainment Tonight. "He has to take me naked out of a bath tub and we kiss a lot," added Leachman, 82.

So is Black — 43 years her junior — a good smoocher? "Yeah!" Leachman said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Today Scattered flurries. -23 C / -27 C
Saturday Early fog, then sun. -23 C / -35 C
Sunday More clouds than sun. -15 C / -29 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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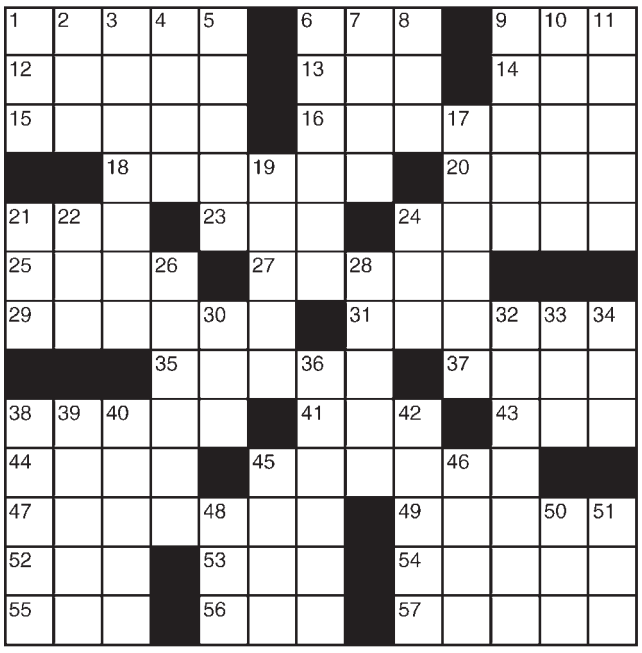
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Quantities stolen
6 Boom times
9 Harvest goddess
12 Up to
13 Enthusiast
14 Torched
15 Mrs. Gorbachev
16 Render untraditionally
18 Incision implement
20 Leak slowly
21 Mueller's org.
23 State of India
24 Twangy
25 Lounge about
27 Unfriendly
29 EBBs collectively
31 Veer
35 Excuse
37 Stench
38 Story-telling brother
41 Scarlet
43 Wolfed down
44 Carry on
45 Breakfast choice
47 Put on a pedestal
49 Oust
52 Round Table address
53 La —, Bolivia
54 Bakery request
55 Plaything
56 Raw rock
57 Saccharine

Crossword down

1 "Ben- —"
2 Literary collection
3 Work with
4 Sax-playing Simpson
5 Word on the street?
6 Open
7 Green shot
8 Pigs' digs
9 Hodgepodges
10 Fast food choice
11 Bessemer product
17 Hammock occupant
19 Raccoon's cousin
21 Winter bug
22 — -relief
24 Without delay
26 Canine coat
28 Wickerwork willow
30 Freddy's street
32 Become aware of
33 Examine
34 — out a living
36 Pleasant wind
38 Mill fodder
39 TV's ancestor
40 Scrimshaw material
42 Gary Cooper role
45 Despot
46 Declare
48 Wall St. debut
50 Bee follower
51 Potent stick

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			6		9			
9	2						5	1
	5			4		8		
	9		8	3				4
		3				9		
7				6	1		3	
		2		7			8	
1	8						7	3
			3		8			6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S	■	C	O	I	L	■	A	R	I	D		
Y	A	M	■	O	N	T	O	■	N	O	L	O		
E	G	O	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		
R	I	G	I	D	■	■	S	K	I	■	■	■		
■	■	■	N	O	V	A	■	E	L	B	O	W		
C	O	R	N	B	E	L	T	■	S	A	V	E		
A	K	A	■	A	R	B	O	R	■	B	A	S		
B	R	I	O	■	T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T		
S	A	L	S	A	■	M	E	T	E	■	■	■		
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	■	A	N	O	D	E		
H	E	A	R	T	F	E	L	T	■	B	A	R		
R	A	G	E	■	F	L	E	A	■	I	T	S		
S	T	A	Y	■	S	K	I	T	■	T	A	T		

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce

INGREDIENTS — FISH:
4 fresh or frozen and thawed salmon or halibut steaks, 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick (about 6 oz/175 g each)
1 cup dry white wine
1 small yellow onion, thickly sliced
2 lemon slices
4 sprigs parsley
4 whole black peppercorns

INGREDIENTS — DILL SAUCE:
1 tbsp (15 ml) butter or margarine
1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
2 tsp (10 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 3/4 tsp (4 ml) dried dill weed
1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon lemon juice

METHOD:
1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Poach fish: in large skillet, combine wine, onion, lemon slices, parsley and peppercorns. Bring to boil. Arrange salmon in a single layer in wine mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 5 to 8 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with fork. Use slotted spatula to carefully remove salmon from the skillet; keep warm. Strain and reserve 1 cup (250 ml) cooking liquid.
2. For dill sauce: in small saucepan, melt butter over moderate heat. Whisk in flour, dill, sugar and salt, and cook for 1 minute or until bubbly. Add reserved cooking liquid. Cook, whisking constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Slowly stir about 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot mixture into egg yolk, then return to saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens (do not boil). Stir in lemon juice.
3. Spoon some dill sauce over salmon and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A larger-than-life mystery deepens. A drama queen is reaching critical mass. An elderly person can move you to tears.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Contact with a maniac will revive you. An ambiguous friend realizes his foolishness. A sweetheart wants to give you something special.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Give some thought to being more diligent. Don't refuse an offer that saves money. A daunting person will ask you for something precious.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make sure that all loose ends are tied up. Time is wasted in mending someone's misery. Plans are made to clear the air.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Trust a friend to be honest with you. A message comes about an illness. Decisions are influenced by casual comments.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't give up on someone who has problems. There's a happy ending for a gullible guy. An important person is willing to work on a new project.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be sincere with someone who is attentive. Ask questions about some entertaining surprises. You are too excitable for your own good.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be true to yourself. A troubled person creates animosity. Don't disagree with a stranger who makes sense.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be serious when dealing with an obstinate fool. Answer questions without joking. Be prepared to face a difficulty alone.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't waste a chance to discuss secrets. Someone pulls the rug out from under a worker. Frustration results from sticking to the rules.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
It's a good day to make a special request. Use your common sense with romantic interests. Avoid over-sensitivity at dinnertime.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A serious relationship continues after a setback. A man is excused for standing his ground. You'll make time for another project.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Do damage to Old MacDonald's spread (1)
2. Coexist in a dragon's den (1)
3. Unfairly distort a puzzle hint (1)
4. Use a loom to make a shirt arm section (1)
5. Athenians' horror movie screams (1)
6. Red Cross founder Clara's kilt patterns (2)
7. Fighting hard to keep three balls in the air (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word. To win $10, send your original rhymes with your definitions to this newspaper. All entries become the property of UFS, Inc.

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Thanks and $10 to Anita Gregory of Pasadena, CA for #6. Send your entry to this newspaper.

ANSWERS
1. HARM FARM 2. SHARE LAIR 3. SKEW CLUE 4. WEAVE SLEEVE 5. GREEKS SHRIEKS 6. BARTONS TARTANS 7. STRUGGLING JUGGLING

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